garden in private sector. The incidence of sickness in the tea industry is low which is being taken care of by tea industry itself in the liberalised economic climate.

Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, which manages the administration of five tea gardens in the States of West Bengal and Assam. The company is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997.

TTCI management has filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. TTCI is in the condition of ill economic health and it is not possible for the company to generate funds for revival of its gardens.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

**Development of industries in NE Region**

25. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by government to develop industries in the North-East Region;

(b) the number and kind of industries opened in the North-East Region. State-wise with details of financial/technical knowhow assistance; and

(c) whether there is any plan to open major industries in this region for more employement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Government has announced a new industrial policy for the North-Eastern Region on 24th December 1997 to promote industrialisation of the region. The various provisions of the policy have been implemented through issuance of necessary notifications.

(b) and (c) These measures are expected to encourage private sector industrial investment in the region. There are no proposals under Ministry of Commerce and industry to open major industries in this region.